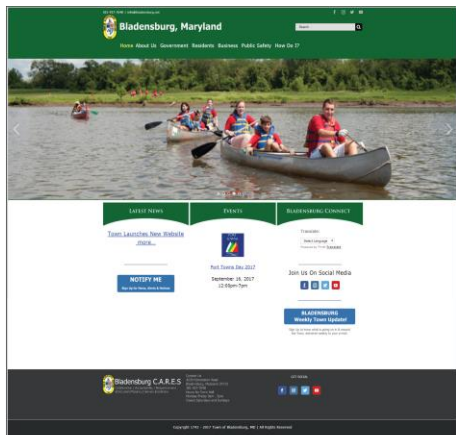


Town Administrators October 2017 Monthly Report



Town of Bladensburg
October 2017
Prepared by Debi Sandlin, Town Administrator

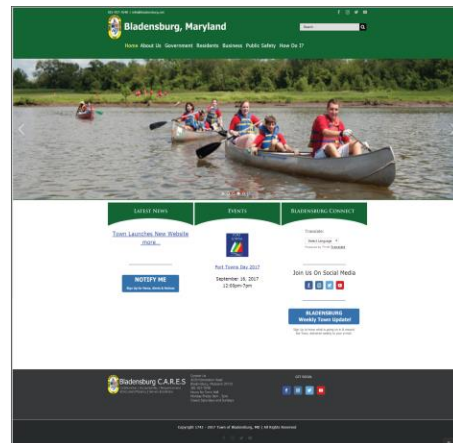
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Dear Mayor and Council,

We are excited to announce the Town of Bladensburg's new website has officially launched. The new site is designed to be an interactive, easy to navigate networking system where residents, businesses and visitors can access up-to-date news, find information on services provided by the Town, learn about upcoming events and meetings; and much, much, more. The new site was enhanced to improve navigation; organize content more efficiently; and provide a clean, visually appealing layout.

Visitors will notice the site is laid out to maximize accessibility and is broken into six primary main menu categories, 1) About Us, 2) Government, 3) Residents; 4) Business, 5) Contact Us, and 6) How Do I? The How Do I feature was added to the main menu to make it easier to quickly access information, find answers and locate resources. This feature will connect visitors to immediate answers to their questions; with links to not only Town agencies, but County and State agencies as well.



The launch of the new site showcases the Town's assets, historic attractions; builds recognition for the community as a place to live, do business, visit and invest in; and promotes the Town as a competitive marketplace in the greater Washington, D.C. Metropolitan area.

In the upcoming months, we will continue to expand the scope of information and services available through the newly redesigned website. We encourage everyone to visit the new site at www.bladensburgmd.gov.

As always, the Town staff and I will continue to make every effort to increase efficiencies in Town services as we serve the citizens of Bladensburg. On behalf of the Town staff, I hope you find this report to be an informative tool that assists you, the policy makers, in better serving the Town of Bladensburg, and provides transparency and useful information to the citizens and businesses of the community. I look forward to hearing any feedback you may have. Please feel free to contact me with any questions, comments, and/or suggestions regarding this report.

FAREWELL TO MAYOR WALTER JAMES, JR.

October was a bittersweet month for Town staff and the community, as we said farewell to Mayor Walter James. After having served the Town for 14 years, Mayor W. James, Jr. decided not to seek re-election. He began serving on the Town Council in 2003 and was elected Mayor two years later. Not only was he the youngest person ever to be elected to serve on the Council, he was also the longest serving Mayor in the Town of Bladensburg. He was driven by his love and passion for the people he was elected to serve and never lost sight of his responsibility in working collaboratively with all stakeholders for the betterment of the entire community. We wish Mayor W. James the best and know he will be successful in whatever he decides to do with this next chapter in his life.



Outgoing Mayor Walter James, Imani James & Mayor Tikisha James

We extend our congratulations to and welcome Mayor Takisha James, the Town's first-ever, African/American female Mayor. Town staff is looking forward to working with her in achieving the vision of the *Town of Bladensburg as a vibrant and exciting destination, offering opportunities to all community stakeholders in a clean and safe environment, promoting redevelopment, investment and diversity.*

MARYLAND MUNICIPAL LEAGUE FALL 2017 CONFERENCE

Along with the Chief of Police, Tracy Stone, I attended the Maryland Municipal Leagues Fall 2017 Conference. During the conference I participated in several work sessions to include: Grassroots Lobbying; Emerging Trends in Municipal Government; and Consensus and Team Building. At the conclusion of the Fall Conference, I successfully completed the University of Maryland's Academy of Excellence and will now be eligible to begin taking their advance graduate classes.

MARYLAND CERTIFIED MANAGERS PROGRAM

Every fall, the University of Baltimore's School of Public Affairs offers a 16 month Public Manager's Certification program. The program is designed to enhance the management skills for executive level leaders involved in public management roles, with an emphasis in seven core areas of public management to include: Personal and Organizational Integrity; Managing Self; Leading People; Developing Self; Public Service Focus; Change Leadership; and System Integration. In June 2017 I applied for the program and was informed in August I had been accepted into the 2017/2018 program. I began taking classes on October 4, 2017. Upon successful completion of the program, I will be a designated Certified Public Manager.



CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

As part of an effort to improve the walkability and to encourage pedestrian accessibility, we have begun to identify areas within the Town to locate pocket parks for passive recreation opportunities

The first pocket park will be located at the corner of Taussig and 54th Street and will include two benches and enhanced landscaping; providing a leisurely place for residents to sit and enjoy the outdoors as they are out for walks around the community.

GRANTS

The following grants have been applied for and awarded.

PY 43: \$100,000 for sidewalks, including the sidewalk adjacent to Harrington Park.

PY 44: \$135,000 for street improvements for Spring Street.

DHCD -\$100,000 Big Belly Clean and Green Grant.

Total Grants Received FY18 to-date - \$335,000.

MEETINGS/EVENTS/COMMUNITY INVOLVMENT

The Town Administrator was involved in the following meetings/events/ and community outreach activities:

1. Attended the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporations TNI Workforce meeting.
2. MGLEV Community meeting in Laurel.
3. Port Town's Legislative Dinner Planning meetings.
4. Participated in a meeting with the University of Maryland's Real Estate Finance Class, Mayor Kisha James and former Mayor Walther James. We met with students majoring in Architecture and Urban Planning to discuss the purpose of the Master Plan for 450/Annapolis Road and our expectations of the project.
5. Participated in a Police Department Ride-Along.
6. Attended Parkview's Fish Fry.
7. Attended Mayor Kisha James Senior Staff meeting.